

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 5-6, 11-12, 14-15 and 21 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the November 7, 2007 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sims III, U.S. Patent No. 6,550,011 (hereinafter "Sims") in view of Ho, U.S. Patent No. 6,148,342 and Van Oorshot et al. (hereinafter "Van Oorshot"), U.S. Patent No. 6,229,894; and rejected claims 2-4, 6-8, 12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sims III in view of Ho (and it is assumed Van Oorshot) and further in view of Zubeldia, U.S. Patent No. 6,044,462. Each of independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 have been amended as discussed at the November 7 personal interview to recite that the master key is encrypted with a current public key of said playing device. As tentatively agreed at the personal interview, independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 so amended define over the applied prior art. Independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 have been further amended to read more clearly in response to the Examiner's comments in the August 14, 2007 Final Office Action and the November 7 personal interview.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 over Simms, Ho, and Van Oorshot should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-10, 12-13, and 15-21 are allowable over Sims III, Ho, Van Oorshot and/or Zubeldia at least for the reasons discussed above with

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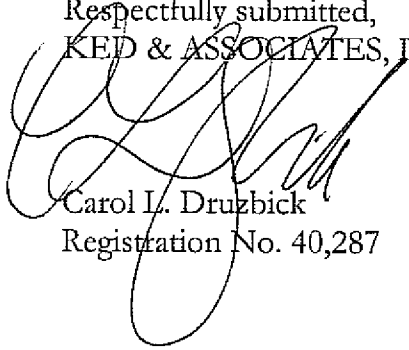
respect to independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 14, from which the respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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